

British Carriage Dog Society Rules and Regulations

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These draft rules and regulations based on American Road Trials rules and regulations are being released as a basis for all certified tests to enable the British Carriage Dog Society to award a working certificate for Carriage and Road Dogs which achieve agreed levels of performance in obedience and endurance.

All matters to be put on the agenda for discussion during the evaluation period should be notified as they arise, in writing to: The British Carriage Dog Society, Tubwell Farm, Tubwell Lane, Maynards Green, Heathfield, East Sussex. TN21 0BY

Copies of these regulations can be obtained from the copyright holders and are freely available to be used by Carriage Dog Trials organisers (Chapter 5 is being submitted to a vet for approval).

Definition and Purpose

The purpose of a Carriage Dog Trial is to demonstrate the use of pedigree Dalmatians as a companion to man in one of the roles that they have been bred to perform. It is a performance event designed to evaluate the Dalmatian's ability to "coach", or follow horses. Entrants qualify their dogs as a handler on horseback, or in a horse-drawn vehicle with dog(s) off lead.

The Kennel Club Breed Standard states, "the Dalmatian should be a carriage dog of good demeanour, capable of great endurance and a fair turn of speed". These qualities are essential to his successful use as a horse/rider and horse/carriage escort.

There are four levels of Competition. The Coaching Certificate evaluates the Dalmatian's ability to coach. The Bronze class evaluates coaching ability at a novice level with a short distance trial. The Silver class evaluates coaching ability and moderate endurance and the Gold class evaluates coaching ability and extended endurance. All classes demonstrate the Dalmatian's ability to behave in public places in the presence of other dogs in a manner that will reflect positively on the sport and the breed.

The dog and entrant must accurately complete the whole Trial course and must conform to these regulations. It is also essential that the dog demonstrates willingness and enjoyment of his work throughout. Carriage Dog Trials are a sport and all participants should be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship at all times.

CHAPTER 1 - General Regulations

1. 1. Compliance with Regulations and Standards

In accordance with the certification on the entry form, each competitor must be familiar with these regulations and, by entering the Carriage Dog Trial, agrees to comply with said regulations.

1. 2. Risk

The owner or agent entering any dog and/or horse in a Carriage Dog Trials does so at his/her own risk. Activities involving horses involve an inherent risk, which is acknowledged by each participant by signing the disclaimer. Neither the British Carriage Dog Society, Trials organisers, nor any land owner nor any agent, employee or representative of these bodies, save for the death or injury caused by negligence of the organisers or anyone for whom they are in law responsible, accepts any liability for any incidents, loss, damage or illness to horses, dogs, owners, grooms, spectators or any other person or property whatsoever caused by their negligence, breach of contract, or in any way whatsoever in any British Carriage Dog Society sanctioned Carriage Dog Trial. It is a condition of entry that each entrant shall agree to indemnify the organisers against any legal action arising therefrom. The organisers reserve the right to determine an entrants' riding or driving ability and inspect his turnout before allowing him/her to compete in their Carriage Dog Trial. Should it be determined by the organisers that a rider or driver might present a safety hazard to him/herself, his/her horse, or to others, the rider or driver may be excused from competition. Riders are advised that they may encounter carriages on the course and are required to ensure that their horse is accustomed to them. Whips are requested to show consideration to riders they may encounter on the course. It shall be the competitor's responsibility to determine which medical inoculations are deemed necessary for his dog(s) and horse(s). S/he may be required to show vet certificates of certain inoculations, as specified in each Carriage Dog Trial schedule. S/he is required to provide proof of adequate third party insurance before being allowed to compete. In these regulations "horse" shall be defined as horse, pony, donkey or mule. In all classes, the competitor may own the horse(s), or the horse(s) may be borrowed or rented at the competitor's expense and liability. The British Carriage Dog Society assume no responsibility for the financial arrangements of hired horses, or assume no liability for the use of any horse(s) at any Carriage Dog Trial, or for any damage that may be caused by such horses.

1. 3 Equipment

Attention must be paid to the fit, safety and soundness of harness and tack. Organisers must provide safety checks.

Carriage Dog: Safety helmets must be worn at all times when on a horse drawn vehicle. Spares must be carried.

Road Dog: Competitors and escorts must wear safety helmets at all times when mounted and riding boots or shoes with at least a ½ inch heel.
The mounted judge shall be required to wear a safety helmet, and riding boots or shoes with at least a ½ inch heel.

1.4 Use of Collar and Lead

Dogs should be kept on a lead when not competing. Dogs may be brought to the starting line on a lead if the competitor chooses. The competitor must remove the lead before crossing the starting line and will be disqualified if it is re-attached to the dog on the endurance or obedience course without the authorisation of the organisers or judge. There shall be collars and leads available at the mid-point veterinarian (vet) check for competitors to use on each dog during his vet examination. Dogs should be kept on a lead when brought into the ring to receive awards. Dogs may only wear a smooth collar when competing. It is required by law that each dog wears an identification tag in a public place.

1.5 Road Trials Hosts

If a group or individual wishes to run a Carriage Dog Trial in which the entrants are eligible for British Carriage Dog Society awards the group or individual should write to the British Carriage Dog Society and agree to abide by its rules and regulations.

1.6 Un-entered Dogs

Only dogs entered in the Carriage Dog Trial and distraction dogs used for the Trial shall be allowed within the obedience area of competition. If the organisers wish to allow the presence of un-entered dogs in a designated area, these dogs shall be subject to all rules relating to health and conduct and must be kept on a lead. The owners or agents shall be responsible for the care and safety of such dogs.

1.7 Escorts and Grooms

Carriage Dog: Entrants may qualify their dogs as a whip or in a vehicle driven by some one else. In the Silver and Gold class the entrant will not be eligible for the competitive element of the trial unless they are competing as the whip. An adult whip must be accompanied by a groom aged 14 years or more on the day of the event. A junior whip must be aged 16 years or more and must be accompanied by an able bodied, experienced groom aged 18 years or more on the day of the event. Permission may be granted for juniors to compete or act as whip if the prior permission of the organisers has been applied for, and the junior is known by the organisers to be competent or a letter of competence from their pony club or driving club has been produced. If a junior competes or drives two sets of reins may be used.

If the entrant competes as groom s/he must face in the same direction as the horse, be competent and familiar with emergency procedure. The groom whether competitor or not may be questioned at the harness check and the organizers are at liberty to prohibit any turnout from continuing if it is felt that the groom is unsatisfactory. The non-competitor whip or groom will not be allowed to give any commands or signals to any of the entered dogs or interfere in any way with the proceedings of the trials except in an emergency. Driving is a high risk sport and every competition has its own particular risks and especially when entrants are required to drive their turnout and be in control of their dog/s organizers must ensure that all possible safety precautions are observed.

Road Dog: For his/her safety and enjoyment, a ridden competitor entered in the Bronze, Silver or Gold classes is encouraged to choose an un-entered companion to ride on horseback. The escort must ride in such a way as to not interfere with the competitor, his dog(s), the mounted judge or the Course Judge or these judges' line of vision during any portion of the Road Trial. Any mounted escort must remain at a predetermined waiting area during the judging of the exercises. The escort may join the competitor team after the judging of the exercises has been completed. This escort shall be subject to act in accordance with these Regulations. Any escort may not at any time give any commands or signals to any of the entered dogs and must sign a disclaimer and agree to abide by the Carriage Dog Trials rules and regulations.

In both road and carriage dog classes the competitor must handle the entered dog(s) on the obedience and the endurance element of the competition.

1.8 Multiple Entries

Each competitor may enter up to three dogs on a single team in a Carriage Dog Trial. If a team has an entry of 3 or more dogs, the mounted judge(s) may choose to judge the dogs in the exercises in groups of 2 or less. The competitor must provide an assistant to hold the dog on the team that is not being judged.

1.9 Identification

Multiple dogs on a team shall be identified on the course solely by a wide, colour-coded collar. Competitors shall be identified by a large number worn on their back or on the driven vehicle. Identification worn by dogs and competitors shall be clearly visible to the mounted judges and vets. The numbers or colours assigned by the Trial organisers for each member of each team shall be printed in any Carriage Dog Trial Programme.

1.10 Change in Mounted Judges

Mounted judges must be named in the schedule. If for any reason an announced Carriage Dog Trial mounted judge is unable to complete his/her assignment, an alternate mounted judge shall be named. Notification of this change shall be promptly made to the owner of each entry.

1.11 Class Order

After the closing date for entries has passed and prior to the printing of any Carriage Dog Trial Programme, the organisers shall draw by lot the order in which competitors shall begin the Trial with their dog(s). Numbers, colours, and judging times shall be assigned accordingly, in the following order. The organisers may only adjust the running order if necessary for practical reasons or on grounds of safety.

Carriage Dog Gold
Road Dog Gold
Carriage Dog Silver
Road Dog Silver
Carriage Dog Bronze
Road Dog Bronze
Coaching Certificate

It is the responsibility of each competitor to be ready with his/her dog(s) and horse at the Start/Finish vet checkpoint when required, without being called and allowing time for the starting vet checks to be completed before his/her scheduled judging time. The final vet check of dogs that have completed the course shall take precedence over dogs on teams that are just starting the course. At the discretion of the Start/Finish vet, the vet may request that a competitor whose dogs are ready and waiting at his checkpoint be examined ahead of a competitor who is causing a delay. Once the starting vet check has been completed on each team, it is the responsibility of each competitor to present themselves at the course starting line and await instructions from the mounted judge or course steward. At the mounted judge's or the course steward's discretion, and if agreeable to the competitor, the mounted judge or Steward may request that a competitor who is ready and waiting at the starting line be judged ahead of a competitor who has delayed proceeding to the starting line.

1.12 Eligibility for Entry

As used in these regulations, the word "dog" refers to either sex but only to pedigree Dalmatians registered at the Kennel Club. Any dog that is registered in the official registry of another country as a pedigree Dalmatian may also be entered in a British Carriage Dog Trial.

1.13 Dogs That May Not Compete

For each individual trial no dog belonging wholly or in part to a Trial mounted judge, Trial vet, or to any member of such a person's immediate family or household, nor may any of these officials handle or act as agent for any dog entered in the Carriage Dog Trial at which such person officiates or is scheduled to officiate.

No dog less than 12 months of age on the day of the Trial. No dog less than 18 months of age may compete in the Silver or Gold class.

A dog that is blind or deaf to the extent that it is, in the opinion of the organisers or vet, unable to participate in the competition safely.

1.14 Disqualification and Ineligibility

The following will be disqualified

- any dog that attempts to attack any person, horse or dog
- any dog or horse which is so much out of control as to be a danger to the safety of any person or other animal.
- any dog the vet or mounted judge considers unfit to compete
- any dog or a horse that is lame or otherwise unsound. If a horse has been excused or removed from competition, the competitor shall be allowed to substitute another mount if such substitute mount is available within a reasonable time frame. The clocking of the competitor's time shall stop, and be re-started, when a substitute mount has been obtained. It is not the responsibility of the organisers to provide substitute mounts.
- any competitor who interferes wilfully with another competitor or his dog or horse on the course,
- any competitor who displays behaviour contrary to the principles of good sportsmanship.
- any competitor using abusive training of dogs or horses

- any competitor using foul or abusive language or behavior

Any mounted judge or vet that excuses any competitor shall immediately advise a competitor that his/her dog(s) and/or horse has been excused and, in these cases, the dog(s) and/or competitor and/or escort shall be immediately removed from the course and the reason shall be stated in the Score Book or in a separate report.

All awards made to any disqualified or excused dog at the Carriage Dog Trial shall be cancelled by the British Carriage Dog Society and the dog may not again compete in any British Carriage Dog Society sanctioned Trial unless and until, following application by the owner to the British Carriage Dog Society, the owner has received official notification from the Society that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated. Dogs that have been excused because they are lame or unsound do not need such reinstatement of eligibility.

1.15 Training On the Grounds

Competitors shall be allowed and encouraged to ride/drive their horse on the obedience course the day before the Trial without dogs. Competitors shall be allowed to ride/drive their horse with dog(s) at Hock or Axle in an area away from the obedience course the day before the trial and the morning of the trial if such an area is available.

1.16 Decisions

At the Carriage Dog Trial, the decisions of a mounted judge or vet shall be final in all matters affecting the scoring and the working of the dogs and their competitors. The organisers shall decide all other matters arising at the Trial.

1.17 Stewards

The mounted judges and vets are in sole charge of their particular area of judging. Stewards shall be provided to assist each mounted judge and vet, but they may act only on the mounted judge's or vet's instructions. Stewards shall not give information or instructions to owners and competitors except as specifically instructed by the mounted judge or vet, and then only in such a manner that it is clear that the instructions are those of the mounted judge or vet.

A course steward shall be provided who will, acting on the vet's and the mounted judge's instructions, be responsible for maintaining an orderly flow of teams into the Start/Finish vet check Point and then onto the course. The course steward shall also record the time each team crosses the starting line and the finish line, and the time each team leaves for the endurance portion of the course. The course steward shall verify the timings recorded on the aggregate score sheet.

1.18 Official Score Book

The Official Score Book shall be kept by the Carriage Dog Trial organisers and shall contain an aggregate score sheet for each team entered in a Carriage Dog Trial.

No person other than the Scorer, one of the mounted judges or vet may make any entry in the Official Score Book. Officials may enter into the Book only the information assigned to them by these Regulations. The scorer shall transfer the scores from the mounted judge(s) and vet sheets onto the official aggregate score sheets; copy the official start and finish time of each team and deduct the mid-point vet check time from the total time. All final scores must be entered in the Official Book by the Scorer, re-verified and signed by the mounted judge(s), vet, and course steward, before prizes are awarded. Copies of the aggregate score sheets in the Official Book shall be made available through the Carriage Dog Trial Scorers for examination by owners, competitors, and spectators after the completion of the Trial. If the aggregate scorecards are distributed by the organisers after the prizes are awarded, they must contain no more information than is shown in the Official Score Book, and must be marked "Unofficial Score".

CHAPTER 2 - Overall Regulations for Performance

2.1 Time Limits and Official Start Time

In the Bronze, Silver and Gold classes, the timing of the endurance portion shall begin after completion of the obedience exercises. If the speed exercise must be held farther along the course with a separate mounted judge, then the recorded time shall begin after the mounted judge has completed judging his/her four exercises. The official start time of

the endurance portion of each team shall be recorded by the course steward, and shall be marked on the aggregate score sheet.

The official finish time of each team shall be recorded as the team crosses the finish line, and before the final vet check. All dogs must be in hock or axle through the start and finish.

2.2 Commands

Whenever a command is mentioned in these Regulations, a single verbal command by the competitor is preferable, although extra commands may be permissible. Any extra commands including hand signals, if needed to keep the dog(s) under control, will be scored accordingly. A competitor may praise his/her dog(s) during an exercise, or use a voice correction, but this should not be excessive. Delay in following a mounted judge's order to give a command must be penalized, unless the mounted judge, because of some distraction or interference, directs the delay. Any unusual noise or motion may be considered a correction. Each dog's name may be used once immediately before any verbal command. Commands, which in the mounted judge's opinion are excessively loud or gruff, will be penalized.

Coaching Certificate and Bronze Class

In all the obedience tests for the Coaching Certificate, Bronze Road Dog and Bronze Carriage Dog extra commands and encouragement will not be penalised. This is designed to help the novice dogs in their work and to set down a solid foundation on which to build for future tests at a higher level.

2.3 Food

A competitor may not carry or offer food for his/her dog(s) on the course but may arrange in advance for a snack for his/her dog(s) to be at the mid-point vet check, or the organisers may offer a snack for dog(s) at the mid-point vet check.

2.4 Hock/Axle Position

Carriage: Axle position as used in these regulations shall mean that the dog shall be in a semicircle behind the horse's head in line with the direction in which the horse and carriage are facing, and as close as practicable without crowding or obstructing the horse's motion and within one horse's length of the carriage. The dog may be running under, behind, or next to the carriage, but it is of paramount importance that the dog should be running in a position that is both safe and comfortable.

Road: Hock position as used in these Regulations means that the dog shall be in a semi-circle behind the horse's head in line with the direction in which the competitor and horse are facing and as close as practicable without crowding or obstructing the horse's motion and within one horse's length of the horse. The dog shall not go ahead of the horse's head during the Hock or Distraction exercises.

Dogs on a team with multiple entries shall not be penalized for allowing space for other dogs in Hock/Axle position.

2.5 Orders and Minimum Penalties

The orders for the exercises and the standards for judging are set out in Chapter 8. The list of faults is not intended to be complete, but the more common and serious faults are specified. There is no maximum limit on penalties. A dog that makes none of the errors listed may still fail to qualify or may be scored zero for other reasons that were not specifically stated in Chapter 8, but these faults shall be described on the mounted judges' score sheets.

CHAPTER 3 - Course Set-Up

3.1 Vet Check Points

The gaitting portion of the Start/Finish vet soundness exams shall ideally be conducted in an outdoor area at least 8 metres square, preferably no more than ½km from the start. The Mid-Point vet check shall be conducted as close to the approximate mid-point of the course as practicable. The ground in both cases shall be as clean and level as practical,

and any grass should be cut short. The organisers will provide leads and water for dogs and horses, at each of the vet checkpoints.

3.2 Warm-Up

A starting and finish line shall be designated. After leaving the starting line and before beginning the exercises, each team shall be allowed at least half a kilometre to warm-up. This warm-up distance may be measured as part of the overall distance.

3.3 Overall Course Layout

The course must be marked with legible and tamper and weather resistant trail markers. The course must also be marked with distance markers (i.e. "1 km", "2 km etc.") Water must be available for dogs at a minimum of every 3-4 kilometres. Course layout is at the Carriage Dog Trial organiser's discretion, and any portion of the course may be repeated in order for competitors to fulfil the required distances. It shall be the responsibility of the organisers to attempt to secure a site that is appropriate for both horse under saddle and driven vehicles. A separate course for the endurance portion of the Trial may be provided for driven vehicles if necessary. In all classes, each team shall complete the obedience exercises on the same course.

3.4 Course Layout, Obedience Exercises

A specific area shall be designated for the mounted judge to conduct the exercises under his/her jurisdiction. It is preferable that the portion of the Carriage Dog Trial under jurisdiction of the mounted judge be as close to the starting line as possible allowing for the correct warm-up distance.

Coaching Certificate, Bronze and Silver classes:

The HOCK/AXLE exercise shall consist of a 200 metre distance. The exercise shall follow an approximate straight line, as much is practicable. The exercise shall be marked at the start and finish.

Gold classes:

The HOCK/AXLE exercise shall consist of a figure 8 for a total distance of 200 metres, when practicable, or a 200 metre distance with at least two turns. The exercise shall be marked and flagged at the start, turns, and finish, at the discretion of the organisers.

All classes:

In the DISTRACTION exercise, each team must continue past the distraction for about 20 metres.

These markers shall serve as a general guide, and the mounted judge's orders shall in all cases take precedence over the location of the trail markers.

The start and finish of the RECALL, DISTRACTION, and STAY exercises shall be at the discretion of the mounted judge.

3.5 Course Layout, Speed Exercise

A specific area of the course shall be designated for the SPEED exercise. If the mounted judge is to be the only mounted judge, the SPEED exercise must be located within or directly adjacent to the area provided for the other exercises. If a second mounted judge (course mounted judge) is provided, it is preferable, but not required that the portion of the Trial course designated for the SPEED exercise be as close as possible to the section of the course that was used for completion of the obedience exercises. For the SPEED exercise, there shall markers indicating the start and the finish of the one hundred metre distance. The ground shall not go downhill, but shall be flat, or cover a gentle upward slope, shall be as smooth as possible, and free of holes or other hazards. The mounted judge of the SPEED exercise shall be situated in such a way as to not frighten the horse, preferably at a mid-way, elevated point, and his steward(s) shall be instructed to remain quiet and still during this exercise.

3.6 Spectator Area

The organisers must designate and mark an area for spectators that will allow viewing without distraction of or interfere with the performance of the competitors or their dogs or horses while they are being judged. If this is in the obedience area signs must be displayed which prohibit non competition dogs from the vicinity.

3.7 Course Check Points

There shall be at least two stewards or sign-in sheets posted along the course at whatever points deemed necessary by the Trial organisers in order to verify each team's completion of the required distance.

3.8 Review of Course

Whenever possible, the organisers shall conduct a review of the course with the competitors, mounted judge(s), and, if possible, vet(s) on the day before the Carriage Dog Trial, and shall notify the competitors of the time and date of this course review within two weeks of the Trial. It shall be the competitor's responsibility to arrive at the Carriage Dog Trial site in time to attend this course review. The organisers shall not be required to conduct subsequent reviews for competitors who fail to attend the scheduled review.

CHAPTER 4 - Awards and Prizes

4.1 The British Carriage Dog Society Titles

The British Carriage Dog Society shall award titles to the owner(s) of each dog that qualifies in an approved Trial. It shall be the responsibility of the organisers to prepare any certificates, rosettes or medals to represent these titles under the direction of the British Carriage Dog Society.

4.2 Carriage Dog Trial Rosettes

It is suggested that rosettes are offered for first to third places in the Bronze, Silver and Gold classes at any Carriage Dog Trial. Qualifying rosettes or medals shall be offered for each dog that passes the Coaching Certificate Test and each dog that qualifies in Bronze, Silver or Gold at any Carriage Dog Trial.

4.3 Prizes and Awards

All official rosettes and trophies shall be awarded only to dogs that earn a pass rating in the Coaching Certificate Test or a qualifying score in a Bronze, Silver or Gold class in a Carriage Dog Trials. Awards for the three places in each class shall be based solely on the number of points earned. At the Carriage Dog Trial organiser's discretion, a certificate, ribbon of participation or other form of recognition or prize may be awarded to dogs and/or competitors who competed in the Carriage Dog Trial but who did not receive pass rating or a qualifying score. Other prizes or awards may be offered at the discretion of the organisers.

4.4 Highest Scoring Dog in Carriage Dog Trial

At the National Competition the Carriage and Road dogs receiving the highest qualifying score overall from the Silver and Gold classes shall be awarded the championship and any awards and prizes offered for this placement. Groom competitors are not eligible for this award.

4.5 Best Condition Dog Award

At each Trial there shall be an award for the competing dog which, in the opinion of the Start/Finish vet, is in the best condition. The vet shall base his/her decision on the information gained from the start, finish and mid-point vet checks combined with his/her professional assessment of the overall condition of each dog. This award will be for dogs in the Silver and Gold class and will be awarded at the discretion of the organisers.

CHAPTER 5 - Regulations for Vet checks- TBC

CHAPTER 6 - Regulations for Performance and Judging

6.1 Requirements for Mounted Judges

The organisers will secure a mounted judge or judges, and vet or vets, to be utilised at the organisers' discretion to enable the Trial to be conducted successfully.

The mounted judge will judge the hock/axle, distraction, recall and stay and may judge the speed exercise. If a course mounted judge is assigned, the course mounted judge will judge the speed exercise.

The mounted judge must

1. be a competent equestrian
2. have earned a British Carriage Dog Society title at Silver or Gold **or** be a recognised Kennel Club or Affiliated Society Obedience Judge **or** have grandfather rights
3. have experience either in owning ,breeding, showing, or training Dalmatians
4. have a working knowledge of the regulations

The course mounted judge must

1. have earned a British Carriage Dog Society title or be a recognised Kennel Club or Affiliated Society Obedience Judge **or** have grandfather rights
2. or have experience either in owning ,breeding, showing, or training Dalmatians
3. have a complete working knowledge of the regulations

Organisers should apply to the British Carriage Dog Society for a list of approved judges who will have attended at least two trials.

6.2 Standardized Judging

Standardized judging is of paramount importance. Mounted judges are not permitted to inject their own variations into the exercises, but must see that each competitor and dog executes the various exercises exactly as described in these Regulations. A competitor familiar with these Regulations should be able to enter the course under any mounted judge without having to enquire how the particular mounted judge wishes to have any exercise performed and without being confronted with some unexpected requirement. No mounted judge shall require any dog or competitor to do anything, nor penalize a dog or competitor for failing to do anything, that is not required by these Regulations.

6.3 Standard of Perfection

The Carriage Dog Trial mounted judge(s) must carry a mental picture of the theoretically perfect performance in each exercise and score against this visualized standard which shall combine the utmost in willingness, enjoyment, and precision on the part of the dog, and naturalness, gentleness, and smoothness in handling. Lack of willingness or enjoyment on the part of the dog must be penalized, as must lack of precision in the dog's performance, aggression by the dog, and/or roughness in handling or commands by the competitor.

6.4 Qualifying Performance

The mounted judges' certification in the Official Score Book of a qualifying score for any particular dog constitutes his/her certification to the British Carriage Dog Society that the dog has performed all of the required exercises at least in accordance with the minimum standards for the relevant award. In deciding whether a faulty performance warrants a qualifying score, the mounted judge shall consider whether the awarding of a Carriage Dog Trial title would be justified if all dogs in the class performed the exercise in a similar manner. The mounted judge must not give a qualifying score for the exercise if he/she decides that it would be contrary to the best interests of the sport if all dogs in the class were to perform in the same way.

6.5 Mounted Judge's Directions

The mounted judges' orders and signals should be given to the competitors in a clear and understandable manner, but in such a way that the work of the dog is not disturbed. The mounted judge shall take care that his/her horse does not come so close to any of the dogs as to interfere with any exercise. Before starting the exercises the mounted judge shall state, "This will be the (particular) exercise, are you ready?" The competitor should then respond, "Yes," or "No." If the competitor is not ready, the mounted judge will give the competitor a reasonable amount of time to prepare, and then ask the question again. For the Speed exercise, an official course steward may be used to give the signal on order from the mounted judge, the steward will state, "This will be the Speed exercise, are you ready?" The competitor will then respond. If the competitor is not ready, the mounted judge will give the competitor a reasonable amount of time to prepare, and then proceed. At the end of each exercise, the mounted judge shall say, "Exercise finished." At the end of

the Speed exercise, there shall be a trail marker, which indicates the end of the exercise. After each exercise, the mounted judge shall advise the competitor if any dog on the team has failed the exercise, and the competitor shall be given the option of continuing on the course. The mounted judge is not required to explain his scoring and need not enter into any discussion with any competitor who appears dissatisfied. (See also chapter 6.12) The judging of an exercise will begin when the mounted judge, or official course steward in the case of the Speed exercise, gives the first order, not before.

6.6 Standardized Judging

The same methods and standards must be used for judging and scoring dogs in the Silver and Gold classes. The judge must also standardize judging within the Coaching Certificate and the Bronze test.

6.7 Interference and Double Handling

Any mounted judge, who is aware of any assistance, interference, or attempt to control a dog by anyone other than the competitor, must act promptly to stop such double handling, and shall penalize or fail the dog as the circumstances warrant.

6.8 Re-judging

If a dog has failed in a particular part of an exercise, it shall not ordinarily be re-judged nor given a second chance. If, in the mounted judge's opinion, however, the dog's performance was prejudiced by peculiar and unusual conditions, the mounted judge may, at his own discretion, re-judge the dog on the entire exercise.

6.9 Ties and Run-offs

In case of a tie for any prize, or for the championship, the dog with the highest veterinary score will be placed the highest.

6.10 Official Score Book and Mounted Judges' Score Sheets

The mounted judge(s) must enter each dog's performance on their score sheets immediately after judging each team, and before starting to judge the next team. The mounted judge may also act as scorer when s/he has finished judging and should transfer the scores onto the official aggregate score sheets as described in chapter 1.18. Mounted judges may use separate score sheets or a tape recorder for their own purposes, but shall not give out or allow competitors to see such sheets or hear such recordings, nor give out any other written scores, nor permit anyone else to distribute score sheets or cards prepared by the mounted judge. If the organisers distribute scorecards, they must contain no more information than is shown on the aggregate score sheet and must be marked "Unofficial Score".

6.11 Announcement of Scores

No-one shall be required to disclose any score or partial score to contestants or spectators until the public announcement of scores, nor shall he/she permit anyone else to do so. After all the scores are given final verification, the course steward, after consulting with the mounted judge(s), shall call for the dogs that have won qualifying scores to be brought to the awards table. If at all possible, all mounted judges and vets shall be present during the announcement of scores. Before awarding the prizes, the maximum number of points for a perfect score shall be announced, followed by the score of each prize-winner, and the score of each dog that has achieved a qualifying score.

6.12 Explanation and Errors

No mounted judge or vet is required to explain his scoring, and need not enter into any discussion with any competitor who appears to be dissatisfied. The mounted judge or vet is encouraged to offer comment to interested competitors about the performance of a dog at their discretion. Any person who thinks there may have been an arithmetical error, or an error in identifying a dog, may report the facts to the start/finish steward and to the organisers so that the matter may be checked and cleared up. Objections must be made in writing to the organisers within half an hour of the occurrence, accompanied by £20 which may at the discretion of the show committee be forfeited if the objection is disallowed.

CHAPTER 7 - Carriage Dog Trial Classes

7.1 Eligibility and General Requirements

Coaching Certificate Test:

A Coaching Certificate Test shall be offered at all Carriage Dog Trials. A dog may not be entered in the Coaching Certificate Test and a Bronze, Silver or Gold class of the same discipline at the same Trial. Any entered dog that has not yet earned a Road or Carriage Dog title and receives a qualifying score in each of the judged exercises, but fails to complete the course, shall be awarded the Coaching Certificate. The Coaching Certificate Test shall be conducted after all entrants for other classes have completed the obedience exercises, all exercises are to be judged pass/fail. No vet checks are required, but the mounted judge may excuse a dog as provided in the Regulations Chapter 1.14 To earn the Coaching Certificate Title, a dog must earn a "Pass" rating in all five obedience exercises. The exercises shall be performed on the same course as the Bronze, Silver and Gold classes, and shall be conducted in the same manner as the exercises for these classes.

7.2 General Requirements

Carriage or Road Dog Bronze:

Dogs entered in the Bronze class shall be required to pass:

- an initial vet check
- a qualifying score in all of the five obedience exercises
- 10 km within a time limit of 80 minutes
- A qualifying score at the final vet check

Carriage or Road Dog Silver

Dogs entered in the Silver class shall be required to pass:

- an initial vet exam
- a qualifying score in all of the five obedience exercises
- 20 km within a time limit of three hours excluding the time required for the Mid-Point vet check
- A qualifying score at the final vet check

Carriage or Road Dog Gold

Dogs entered in the Gold Class shall be required to pass:

- an initial vet check
- a qualifying score in all of the five obedience exercises
- 40 km within a time limit of 6 hours, excluding the time required for the Mid-Point vet check
- A qualifying score at the final vet check

It is the responsibility of the competitor to properly condition each dog to compete at this distance within this time frame.

7.3 Titles

The British Carriage Dog Society shall award titles to any dog that earns an overall "Pass" rating in the classes.

7.4 Non-Regular Classes

The organisers may hold non-regular classes at their discretion. Such classes should be listed in the schedule for the Trial. No titles will be awarded for non-regular classes. The organisers may offer prizes, ribbons, and awards for these classes at their discretion.

CHAPTER 8 - Exercises, Tests, and Scoring

8.1 Exercises and Scoring

The exercises for all classes are:

Carriage Dog

1. Axle
2. Distraction

Road Dog

- Hock
- Distraction

Carriage Dog

3. Stay
4. Willingness to work
5. Speed

Road Dog

- Long Sit or Down
- Recall
- Speed

The scoring for each of the exercises 1-5 is:

Score 51-100 = Pass

Score 0-50 = Fail

n.b. The Coaching Certificate exercises receive no score, but to gain the title a dog must receive a "Pass" rating in all exercises.

Tests are:

1. Start vet check
2. Mid-Point vet check (Silver and Gold classes only)
3. Final vet check
4. Completion of required distance within the time limit

The scoring for the start and midpoint tests is pass or fail

The scoring for the final vet check is: 51-100 points = Pass/ 0-50 points = Fail

Qualifying Score in each test

- + 8 Pass Ratings required in the Bronze class
- + 9 Pass Ratings required in the Silver class
- + 9 Pass Rating required in the Gold class

At the discretion of the mounted judge, the Hock/Axle, Distraction, Recall/Willingness to work, and Long Sit or down/Stay exercises may be judged in any order. The Speed exercise shall be judged last.

8.2 Starting, Mid-Point, and Final Vet Checks

The principle feature of the vet checks is to determine that the dog is in sound condition before beginning the course, while traversing the course, and after completing the course. These tests shall be conducted by the vet(s) as described in Chapter 5. There shall be stewards at the vet check points available to hold the competitor's horse(s), so that the competitor may assist the vet with the dog(s) during the examination. On request from the vet, the competitor shall hold his dog while the vet shall conduct any tests he/she deems necessary, as described in Chapter 5, and indicate the results on a score sheet. The competitor shall then gait each dog, on instruction from the vet, so that the vet can check for any signs of lameness. At the Mid-Point vet check, each team shall be allowed a rest period of at least 5 minutes, but not to exceed 30 minutes, as described in Chap. 5.7.

Any dog that, in the vet's opinion, requires more than a 30 minute rest period shall be excused from further competition in the Trial. The vet shall also check each horse for any signs of stress or lameness, and any horse that, in the vet's opinion, requires more than a 30 minute rest period shall be excused from further competition in the Trial. Another horse may be substituted if such horse is available within a reasonable time frame, as described in Chapter 1.14.

8.3 Starting and Mid-point Vet Checks: Scoring

No points are awarded at the Starting vet check and the Mid-Point vet check. The Starting and Mid-Point checks are "Pass/Fail". A dog must receive a "Fail" and be excused from further competition in the Trial if it exhibits any lameness or excessive stress during these tests as described in Chapter 5. If the vet is satisfied that a dog's condition is sound after conducting the tests, he/she shall give the dog a "Pass" rating.

8.3b Final Vet Check: Scoring

At the Final vet check, each dog will receive a score of up to 100 points. A dog must receive a "Fail" (0-50) if, in the opinion of the Start/Finish vet, the dog is in distress and needs immediate medical attention. If the vet is satisfied that a dog's condition is sound after conducting the tests, he shall give the dog a "Pass" (51-100) rating. When scoring a dog after the Final vet check, the Start/Finish vet shall compare the baseline information recorded for each dog on the Start/Finish score sheet, the information recorded on any Mid-Point vet score sheet, and the condition of the dog at the Final vet check, in order to

rate each dog's overall condition within a scale of 0-100 points.

8.4 Hock/Axle Exercise

Carriage:

The principal feature of this exercise is to test the ability of the dog to stay close to the horse and carriage when required. The Axle Exercise for the Coaching Certificate test and Bronze and Silver classes shall be at walk and trot over a distance of 200 metres, in as straight a line as is practicable, if the terrain permits. Markers shall serve as a general guide, but the mounted judge's orders shall in all cases take precedence over their location. Orders for the exercise are, "This will be the Axle Exercise, are you ready?" "Commence the Exercise" and "Exercise Finished". The mounted judge shall standardize as much as practical the place on the course that each dog is required to work. The mounted judge will announce the exercise and asks if the competitor is ready. When the competitor replies, "Ready," or "Yes," the mounted judge will proceed with the orders. On the mounted judge's order the competitor may give each dog a single command to fall into the Axle position, where the dog(s) shall remain while continuing forward. The competitor may praise his/her dog(s) as the team continues forward, and may give additional commands, if necessary, recognizing that additional commands and praise during exercises will be scored accordingly. The dog(s) shall remain in the Axle position, without swinging wide, lagging, forging ahead, or coming so close to the horse and carriage as to interfere with forward motion. At the approximate completion of the required distance, the mounted judge shall command "Exercise Finished". The mounted judge shall remain at least twenty metres away from any dog.

Road:

The principal feature of this exercise is to test the ability of the dog to stay close to the horse and competitor when required. The Hock Exercise for the Coaching Certificate test and Bronze and Silver classes shall be 200 metres; in as straight a line as is practicable, if the terrain permits. Markers shall serve as a general guide, but the mounted judge's orders shall in all cases take precedence over their location. Orders for the exercise are, "This will be the Hock Exercise, are you ready?" "Call your dog to Hock ", "Commence the exercise" and "Exercise Finished". The mounted judge shall standardize as much as practical the place on the course that each dog is required to "Hock ". When the mounted judge announces the exercise and asks if the competitor is ready, the mounted judge and competitor shall be moving forward. When the competitor replies, "Ready," or "Yes," the mounted judge will proceed with the orders. On the mounted judge's order the competitor shall call each dog in and then give each dog a single command to fall into the Hock position, where the dog(s) shall remain while continuing forward. Once in Hock position, the competitor may begin a brisk trot with the mounted judge. The competitor may praise his/her dog(s) as the team continues forward, and may give additional commands, if necessary, recognizing that additional commands and praise during exercises will be scored accordingly. The dog(s) shall remain in Hock position, without swinging wide, lagging, forging ahead, or coming so close to the horse as to interfere with forward motion. The team shall continue forward at a trot for up to 200 metres. At the approximate completion of the required distance, the mounted judge shall command "Exercise Finished". The mounted judge shall remain at least twenty metres away from any dog.

8.5 Hock/Axle Exercise: Gold Classes

The Gold Hock/Axle exercise shall be conducted in the same manner as the other classes except that the 200 metres distance shall consist of a figure 8, when practicable, or a 200 metre distance with at least two turns.

The Gold HOCK/AXLE exercise shall be marked at the start, turns, and finish, at the discretion of the organisers. These markers shall serve as a general guide, and the mounted judge's orders shall in all cases take precedence over the location of the trail markers.

8.6 Hock/Axle Exercise: Scoring

If a dog is unmanageable, or refuses to Hock/Axle, the dog must be scored zero on this exercise.

Substantial deductions shall be made for excessively loud or gruff commands or signals to Hock/Axle, or if a competitor adapts his horse's pace to that of the dog. Substantial or minor deductions shall be made for such things as lagging, forging, interfering with the horse or vehicle's forward movement, and/or going wide or excessive barking. Substantial deductions shall be made for a dog that goes ahead of the horse during this exercise, but

who drops back into Hock/Axle position on command. Minor deductions may be made for repeated commands or praise during the Hock/Axle Exercise.

8.7 Distraction Exercise

The principal feature of this exercise is to demonstrate a dog's ability to remain under the competitor's voice control in the event of a distraction. Orders are, "This will be the Distraction Exercise, are you ready?" "Commence exercise" and "Exercise Finished." The Distraction Exercise may be judged at a trot, at the competitor's discretion. On signal from the mounted judge, a hiker with a dog on a lead shall start walking toward the approaching competitor, but while remaining on the competitor's right side, at least twenty metres away, while passing. The competitor shall continue forward with his dog(s) in Hock/Axle position from the previous exercise, and shall be allowed to command each dog to "Hock/Axle" when he has noticed the approaching distraction. When the competitor and his dog(s) have gone past the distraction dog approximately five metres, the mounted judge shall indicate that the exercise is finished, and the competitor may release his dog(s).

The distraction dog handler shall remain on the down-course side of the competing team until after the mounted judge has completed judging the remaining exercise(s) and has started back toward the course start.

8.8 Distraction Exercise: Scoring

A dog must receive a score of zero if it attacks the on-coming hiker or dog, or if it disregards its competitor's command to Hock/Axle. Substantial or minor deductions shall be made if a dog barks repeatedly at the distraction (a single warning bark shall not be penalized), if it starts to approach the distraction but comes back to Hock/Axle on command, if it displays shyness, or if it moves out of Hock/Axle Position. Minor deductions may be made for repeated commands or praise during the Distraction exercise.

8.9 Long Sit, Down or Stay Exercise

Carriage:

The principal feature of this exercise shall be to demonstrate the dog's ability to wait under his competitor's control until released. Orders are, "This will be the Stay Exercise, are you ready?" "Commence the exercise" and "Exercise Finished." If more than one dog is judged at the same time for this exercise, the competitor may give a separate command to each dog. The competitor may choose to have a steward or the groom hold the horse(s)' head(s) before the exercise begins and while waiting for a period of one minute. On order from the mounted judge, the competitor shall call his dog(s), and command each dog to stay. The mounted judge and any competitor's escort must remain at least 6 metres away from the dog(s). After one minute from the time the competitor has given the "Stay" command, the mounted judge shall say, "Exercise Finished." The dog(s) should not move from the stay position until the competitor has released them after the mounted judge has said, "Exercise Finished."

Road:

The principal feature of this exercise shall be to demonstrate the dog's ability to wait under his competitor's control until released. Orders are, "This will be the one minute Sit or Down Exercise, are you ready?" "Commence the exercise" and "Exercise Finished." If more than one dog is judged at the same time for this exercise, the competitor may give a separate command to each dog. The competitor may choose to remain mounted or may choose to dismount after the "Stay" command has been given, and hold the horse(s)' head(s) throughout the remainder of the exercise. If the competitor remains mounted he/she may choose to move the horse(s) away from the dog(s) after the "Stay" command is given, as long as he/she does not interfere with the mounted judge's line of vision. On order from the mounted judge, the competitor shall call his dog(s), command each dog to sit or down, and command each dog to stay. It shall be the competitor's choice whether to command each dog to sit, or to down, and different dogs on the same team may be given different commands. After placing his dogs in a sit or down, the competitor shall assure that his horse does not come so close to the dogs as to threaten their safety, while waiting for a period of one minute. The mounted judge and any competitor's escort must remain at least 6 metres away from the dog(s). Neither the competitor nor his/her escort shall move in any position that might interfere with the mounted judge's line of vision during this exercise. If a dog gets up and starts to roam, or if a dog moves so as to interfere with another dog, the mounted judge shall promptly instruct one of the stewards to place the dog on a lead and take the dog aside and away from the other dogs on the team until the exercise is finished. After one minute from the time the competitor has given the "Stay" command, the mounted judge shall say, "Exercise Finished." The dog(s) should not move

from the sit or down position until the competitor has released them after the mounted judge has said, "Exercise Finished."

8.9a Long Sit or Down/Stay Exercise: Scoring

During this exercise, the mounted judge's horse shall stand in such position that all the dogs are in his line of vision, and where he can see the competitor without having to turn around. Scoring of this exercise shall begin as soon as the competitor responds "Yes," or "Ready," to the mounted judge's question of "Are you ready?" Timing of the exercise shall begin after all dogs on the team have responded to the competitor's command to sit, down or stay, and as soon as the competitor has given the command to "Stay". A competitor whose dog assumes a position in such a manner that it could interfere with an adjacent dog, or be too close to a horse for safety, shall be required to reposition his dog. A score of zero is required for the following: a dog's refusing to Sit or Down/Stay, moving at any time during the exercise a substantial distance away from the place where it was left, or going over to any other dog. A substantial or minor deduction shall be made for a dog that moves a minor distance away from the place where it was left; for barking or whining during the exercise; for resisting its competitor's command to Sit or Down/Stay; for not remaining in the position that was commanded or for overly loud or gruff commands by the competitor to Sit, Down, and/or Stay. A minor deduction may be made for commands or praise repeated during this exercise.

8.10 Willingness to Work Exercise

Carriage:

The principal feature of this exercise is to replicate the beginning of a drive and test the dog(s) willingness to work with the carriage. The competitor will be asked by the judge to leave the carriage with his dog/s. The steward and/or the groom must assist and be at the horses head during this exercise. Orders are, "This will be the Willingness to work exercise, are you ready?" "leave your vehicle" "return to your vehicle" and "Exercise Finished." On order from the mounted judge, the competitor will give a command for each dog to return to the vehicle with their dog(s) and walk forward. Each dog must come straight in at a brisk trot or gallop to the carriage and stay while the horse walks forward a short distance. The mounted judge shall remain at least twenty metres away from the competitor's horse(s).

Road:

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog responds promptly to the competitor's command to "Come". Orders are, "This will be the Recall Exercise, are you ready?" "Call your dog," and, "Exercise Finished." When the dog has run naturally in front, or has dropped back a good distance behind the competitor's horse(s), on order from the mounted judge, the competitor will give a command for each dog to come while his horse is still moving forward at a walk. Each dog must come straight in at a brisk trot or gallop to the competitor's left or right side. On the mounted judge's order, the competitor may release his dog. The mounted judge shall remain at least twenty metres away from the competitor's horse(s).

8.11 Recall Exercise: Scoring

A dog must be scored zero for failure to come when called. Substantial deductions shall be made for a slow response to the "Come", varying with the extent of the slowness, and for a dog that comes partially in and then runs away once again before being released by his competitor. Minor to substantial deductions shall be made for dogs whose competitors repeat the command to come, or who continue talking to the dog as it comes.

8.12 Speed Exercise

The principal feature of this exercise shall be to demonstrate a dog's ability to exhibit a fair amount of speed, as described in the Kennel Club's Standard for the breed, sufficient to keep pace with a galloping horse. One such demonstration shall be sufficient. Orders are, "This will be the Speed Exercise, are you ready?" "Call your dog(s) and commence the exercise," "Exercise finished" (which may be indicated by trail markers). On order from the mounted judge or a steward acting on signal from the mounted judge, the competitor shall call his dog(s) close to his horse(s) or vehicle. The total distance of the Speed Exercise shall be one hundred metres. At the start of the measured distance and on order from the steward, the competitor shall increase his speed first to a working canter, allowing his dog(s) to run in any position they choose whilst remaining under control. When the competitor has passed the trail marker indicating the completion of this exercise, he shall

reduce his speed. After completion of the Speed Exercise, the competitor shall look back to obtain a signal from the mounted judge. The team may be re-judged if the mounted judge does not deem that the horse's speed was sufficient to determine the dog's speed. At the completion of the exercise, the mounted judge will inform the competitor whether each dog has passed or failed this exercise. The mounted judge shall be situated in such a way as to not frighten the horse(s), preferably at a mid-way, elevated point. The mounted judge's steward(s) shall be instructed to remain quiet and still during this exercise.

Carriage: Competitors will need to accustom their horses to canter in harness. The dog must run in a position that is safe.

Bronze and Coaching Certificate: Competitors will be asked to show an increase in pace only.

8.11a Speed Exercise: Scoring

A dog shall be scored zero for not attempting to keep up with the horse(s) or vehicle, or if the competitor/horse does not exhibit any increase in speed. Substantial or minor deductions shall be made for nipping at the horse(s) or vehicle; for falling increasingly behind the horse(s) or vehicle; for repeated barking; or for a competitor who adjusts his horse's pace to that of the dog(s).

At the completion of each exercise, the mounted judge will inform the competitor whether each dog has passed or failed the particular Exercise.

These Regulations were originally developed by the Dalmatian Club of America (Charles Cyopik, Linda Fulks, Meg Ipsas Hennessey, Beth White, and Linda Myers, Chair), with help from many Dalmatian fanciers, in 1988. They were updated in 1994, and 2001, and approved by the DCA Board of Directors. In 2003 the DCA gave permission to the organisers of the first British Carriage Dog Trials to adopt and adapt them. They were published in draft form in May 2005 by Alison Burgess, Joy Claxton, Michele Boys, Mike and Chris Cleland, and Anne Dickens. (Awaiting veterinary input).
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